

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00294 120558Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-04 USSS-00 IO-10

AID-05 /076 W

----- 118726

O P 120440Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6953

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LOFDON ENG PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0294

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MA

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MALAGASY HEAD OF STATE RATSIMANDRAVA

DEPT PASS DIA

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

REF: TANANARIVE 0293

1. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY FONOFF DIRECTOR BILATERAL  
RELATIONS CLAUDE RATSIMANDRESY (WITH WHOM WE MAINTAINED  
CONTACT DURING NIGHT) THAT ONE OF ATTACKERS OF  
RATSIMANDRAVA WAS KILLED DURING AMBUSH OF LATTER'S CAR --  
MEMBER OF GROUPE MOBILE DE LA POLICE, WHICH HAS BEEN  
HARBORING AT ITS ARMED CAMP SEVERAL DISSIDENT COTIER  
OFFICERS INVOLVED IN ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT OF DEC 31.  
THIS INFORMATION IS NOT RPT NOT BEING CARRIED BY MALAGASY  
RADIO, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF INFLAMING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TANANA 00294 120558Z

ETHNIC PASSIONS BETWEEN COTIERS AND MERINA TRIBES OF

TANANARIVE.

2. NEWLY CREATED MILITARY DIRECTORY OF 18 OFFICERS HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN CAREFULLY CONSTITUTED IN EFFORT AVOID RACIAL VIOLENCE. REPRESENTATION BY PROVINCE AS FOLLOWS: TANANARIVE, 4; TULEAR, 4; FIANARANTSOA, 4; TAMATAVE, 2; MAJUNGA, 2; DIEGO SUAREZ, 2. OUR GUESS IS THAT JUNIOR OFFICER REPRESENTATION ON DIRECTORY WAS DETERMINED BY PRESENCE AND AVAILABILITY OF OFFICERS OF DIFFERENT ETHNIC ORIGINS IN ORDER GIVE DIRECTORY MAXIMUM APPEARANCE OF RACIAL BALANCE.

3. ALSO NOTEWORTHY:

(A) PRESENCE OF ANDRIAMHAZO AS CHAIRMAN, WHICH IS REASSURING FOR U.S. INTERESTS.

(B) RE-EMERGENCE OF RATSIRKA AS MEMBER, WHICH INDICATES THAT IN THIS CRISIS HE HAS PLACED NATIONAL UNITY ABOVE PERSONEL AMBITIONS WHICH IN PART UNDERLAY HIS ABSENCE FROM RATSIMANDRAVA GOVERNMENT.

(C) ABSENCE OF CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL RAMORALAHY AND HIS DEPT, WHICH PROBABLY EXPLAINED BY DESIRE KEEP DOWN NUMBER OF MERINA REPRESENTATIVES ON DIRECTORY AND INSURE REPRESENTATION OF OTHER SECURITY FORCES BESIDES ARMY.

(D) ABSENCE OF COLONEL ROLAND RABETAFIKA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT IN RAMANANTSOA GOVERNMENT, WHICH APPARENTLY WITHOUT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE SINCE HE REPORTED BY PRESS TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT WITH ANDRIAMHAZO AT SCENE OF ATTACK SHORTLY AFTER IT TOOK PLACE, AND THUS EVIDENTLY WORKING WITH NEW MILITARY DIRECTORY.

4. WE SHALL COMMUNICATE FUNERAL PLANS FOR RATSIMANDRAVA AS SOON AS WE HAVE LEARNED THEM.  
MENDENHALL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TANANA00294  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750050-0438  
**From:** TANANARIVE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750248/aaaabrix.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TANANARIVE 0293  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSASSINATION OF MALAGASY HEAD OF STATE RATSIMANDRAVA DEPT PASS DIA  
**TAGS:** PINS, MA, (RATSIMANDRAVA, RICHARD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006